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ABSTRACT

This report card and its supplement summarize the California Kids Count data book for 1996, which profiled statewide trends in the well-being of California's children. The report card focuses on the challenges that families face in the current economy and provides recommendations for the public and private sectors. The supplement begins with an introduction to the indicators that have shown improved conditions and those that show conditions worsening since 1995. A of summary data findings highlights the areas of family economics, teen opportunity, safety, health, and education. Policy recommendations for improvement are also included. The next section provides summary data on the following benchmarks, including California and national trends: (1) child care; (2) homelessness/housing; (3) public assistance; (4) hungry children; (5) child support; (6) children in poverty; (7) college-bound seniors; (8) unemployed youth; (9) teen births; (10) drug and alcohol use; (11) incarcerated juveniles; (12) child abuse and neglect; (13) foster care; (14) drug exposed babies; (15) youth homicide; (16) infant mortality; (17) prenatal care; (18) immunization; (19) uninsured children; (20) use of nutrition program; (21) mental health; (22) smoking; (23) dropout rate; (24) preschool education; (25) student/teacher ratio; (26) per pupil expenditures; and (27) reading and math skills. The final section of the supplement consists of California county-by-county data charts. (SD)

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CALIFORNIA: THE STATE OF OUR CHILDREN

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Report Card '96

Family Economics	Bottom* 28%
Teen Opportunity	Bottom* 8%
Safety	Bottom* 25%
Health	Bottom* 34%
Education	Bottom* 15%

*Among the 50 States.

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Children Now is a nonpartisan, independent voice for America's children. Paying particular attention to the needs of children who are poor or at risk, our mission is to improve conditions for all children by making them the top priority across the nation. Using innovative research and communications strategies, Children Now pioneers solutions to the problems facing children. To bring about positive change, our programs build partnerships with parents, lawmakers, business, media and community leaders. Founded in 1988, Children Now's work is national in scope with special depth in California.

Every year, Children Now documents how California's children are faring in the areas of family economics, teen opportunity, safety, health and education. Report Card '96 focuses particularly on the economic challenges that many families face in the new economy.

In California, thousands of children and youth whose parents work hard — sometimes putting in long hours and juggling double shifts — live in poverty, lack health insurance, and cannot afford the costs of pre-school or after-school programs. Though parents work hard, they struggle every day to provide the basics for their children and to be good mothers and fathers.

Despite the struggle, many young people defy the odds: they achieve in school, contribute

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California's working families deserve better.

to their communities and provide great hope to others. But California's working families deserve better. All children should have the opportunity to thrive, learn and succeed. We can take steps to reward work and improve the well-being of families.

Report Card '96 provides specific recommendations for the public and private sectors. Helping California's children realize a more promising future depends upon a partnership of families, businesses and communities. As the federal government retreats from assisting the nation's children and families, California faces an even greater responsibility and opportunity to demonstrate how families and work are valued in this state.

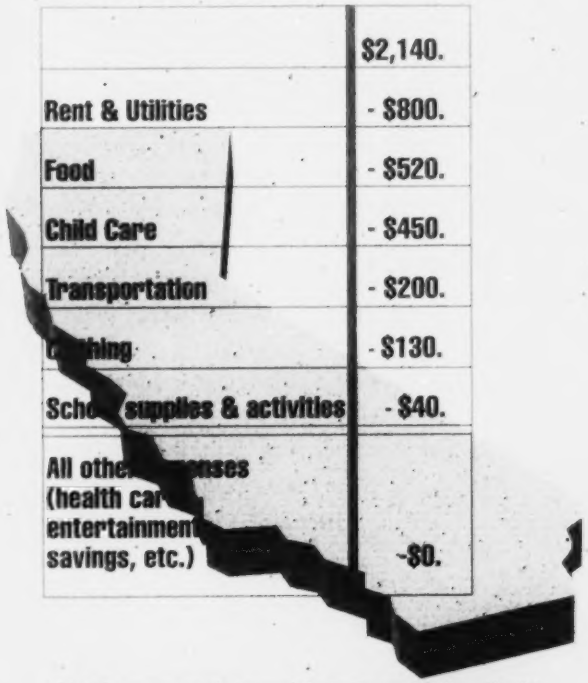
Family Economics

	Rank among states
Hungry Children	46 (of 50)
Public Assistance	16 (of 51)*
Child Support	47 (of 54)**
Children in Poverty	40 (of 51)
	Bottom 28%

*states and D.C.
** states and territories

A two-decade trend of decreasing wages combined with diminished public resources to assist the state's poorest families are key reasons why 2.5 million (1 in 4) California children live in poverty. Poverty leaves children at risk for worse health and lower achievement in school.

A typical household budget for a family of four struggling to get by on $2,140/month:*



*$2,140 represents the income of a family earning the mid-point between poverty and the state's median income; about 1.5 million California families have an income at this level or below.

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Even with the recent increase in the federal minimum wage, full-time work does not yield a decent standard of living. Sixty-three percent (63%) of poor families work during the year, but nonetheless remain in poverty

Full-time minimum wage earnings for a parent are below the poverty level

	Family of four	Family of three
Poverty income	$16,071	$12,547
Full-time minimum wage*	$10,300	$10,300
GAP	$5,771	$2,247

* Calculated at new federal minimum wage of $5.15/hour to go into effect on Sept. 1, 1997.

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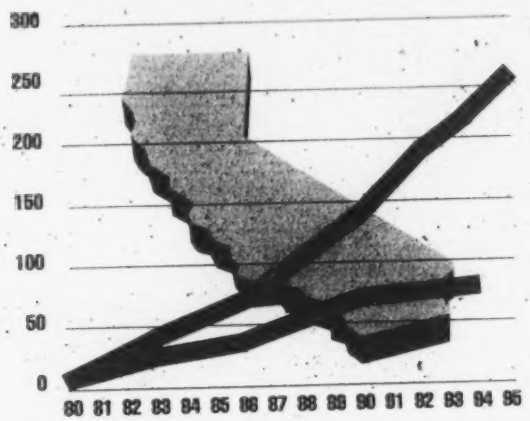
Wages have not kept pace with the cost of living. College tuition now takes about twice the proportion of household income as it did in 1980.

Comparative Increases in College Tuition and Median Household Income



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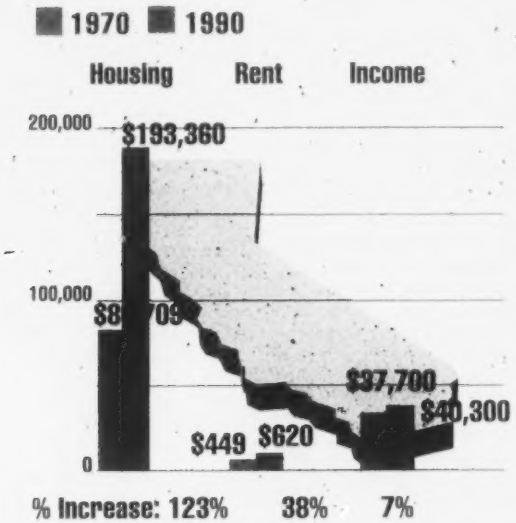
California housing prices compared to median income:



From 1970 to 1990, California housing prices rose seventeen times faster than the median income, when adjusted for inflation. Median housing prices rose 123% to $193,360 and median rents rose nearly 38% to $620 per month. In contrast, median family income rose only 7%.

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Most poor families work:

earnings provide 83% of poor families' income.

Over 80%

of the 1.9 million

children

without health insurance

come from working families.

Lower-wage employees are less likely to enjoy family-friendly workplace policies.

Family-friendly benefits offered to employees

	Flex-time	Work-at-home	Cafeteria benefits plans
High-income workers	26%	16%	9%
Low-income workers	13%	4%	5%

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Many families find they must work more to make ends meet:

- Nationwide, married couples with children worked the equivalent of five more weeks in 1989 than they did in 1979.

- Compared with 1960, American children in 1992 spent an average of 10-12 hours less time per week with their parents.

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Single parents face additional challenges, such as securing full-time child care and, when child support is not provided, making ends meet with only one income.

- Twenty-eight percent (28%) of children nationwide live in single-parent homes and most live in female-headed households. In 1994, the poverty rate for female-headed families with children was 44% compared with 8.3% for married-couple families with children.

- The stresses of economic insecurity may contribute to the breakup of marriages. Poor married couples are about twice as likely as nonpoor couples to separate or divorce within a two-year period, according to a Census Bureau report.

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Child support: 87%

of children who should receive it do not get it.

California counties vary widely in their record of collecting child support.

- More than $5 billion in unpaid child support is owed to children in California today.
- In 1994-95, just 32% of the parents who needed to be found to establish or enforce support were actually located by the county District Attorney's offices. Locating the noncustodial parent is one of the first steps to collecting support.
- The average amount of child support collected annually per case in 1994-95 was $380. Sierra County had the best record of $1,201 annually per case. The bottom five counties on this measurement averaged $241 per case.

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Affordable child care is out of reach

for thousands of working poor families.

Subsidized child care can be an important factor in helping parents remain employed.

- A study by the federal General Accounting Office determined that affordable child care is a "decisive factor" in helping low-income mothers to seek and keep jobs.

- The State Department of Education estimates that 1.6 million children are eligible for subsidized child care, yet only about 250,000 are currently served.

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Working poor families are among the least likely to have health insurance.

- In 1993, over 1.9 million California children (about 1 in 5) lacked health insurance, either public or private. More than 80% of California's uninsured children live in working families.

- The proportion of California's children with employer-based health insurance declined from 52% in 1989 to 48% in 1993.

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Unemployment insurance protects families in times of economic downturns and other causes of job loss, and prevents families from having to turn to welfare. Today, just 38% of California's unemployed receive unemployment benefits.

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Other states offer greater security to working families through state tax credits.

The federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helps low-income working families make ends meet. Seven states -- Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin -- have added a state EITC to help their states' working families get by.

- Over 2.4 million California families are able to supplement low wages with the federal EITC. Even so, this supplement still leaves many families below the poverty level.

- California has suspended the renter's tax credit for the past four years. This tax credit primarily benefited families with annual incomes of less than $30,000. Since 1991, California has enacted $2.3 billion in new or expanded *business* tax breaks.

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Teen Opportunity

The federal Job Corps program -- employing low income youth -- saves $1.46 for every $1.00 invested.

	Rank among states
Unemployed Youth	46 (of 51)
Teen Births	43 (of 50)
Incarcerated Juveniles	50 (of 50)
	Bottom 8%

- The number of youth incarcerated in California could fill about 569 classrooms. The state's cost for a young person's one-year stay at the California Youth Authority is greater than the cost for his or her entire high school education.

- The federally-funded Summer Youth Employment program provides employment for fewer than 100,000 California youth. In 1994, an additional 182,000 16- to 19-year-olds were unemployed and actively looking for work.

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Safety

Home visiting programs have been shown to prevent child abuse.

- Last year the number of child abuse reports in California continued the upward trend of the past decade. However, the rest of the country, on average, experienced an even greater increase than California.

- The proportion of children in California living outside of their own home leveled off in 1996 after rising steadily for the past decade. California's foster care rate remains 59% above the national average.

	Rank among states
Child Abuse/Neglect	38 (of 51)

Bottom 25%

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Health

Children with health insurance are more likely to receive timely, preventive care than those without.

	Rank among states
Infant Mortality	18 (of 50)
Prenatal Care	41 (of 50)
Uninsured Children	41 (of 51)

Bottom 34%

- The percent of mothers who received prenatal care in the first two trimesters continues to improve. In 1994, 95.6% of new mothers had received such care.

- Uninsured children are less likely to see a doctor, even when they have illnesses that could develop severe complications if left untreated.

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Education

Recent research shows smaller class sizes result in improved student learning.

- In 1994, California again had the most crowded classrooms in the nation. However, the Legislature recently allocated additional school funds specifically for class-size reduction in the early grades. California may see some improvement in this measure in the near future.

- California remains significantly behind the average state in terms of per-pupil expenditures. In 1994-95, California spent $4,731 per pupil compared to the national average of $5,894.

	Rank among states
Dropout Rates	38 (of 51)
Student/Teacher Ratio	51 (of 51)
Per Pupil Expenditures	42 (of 51)
Reading Skills in 4th grade	38 (of 39)
Math Skills in 8th grade	28 (of 41)

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Recommendations

Californians who work hard to make ends meet deserve a decent standard of living for their families. Our state's businesses, policy-makers and communities can make this a reality.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR can provide jobs that pay a living wage, health insurance and flexible work schedules for their employees. Business leaders should support unemployment insurance reform to cover more workers.

STATE LEADERS have a number of opportunities to act on their commitment to working families:

- California should enact a refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), as other states have done, by reallocating funds from current tax credits that are ineffective or of lower priority.

- California should expand health insurance coverage for children in working poor families as a smart investment in the future health of California.

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- California should ensure, through adequate funding, that all parents who now qualify for subsidized child care are able to obtain affordable care.

- California should boost efforts to collect child support so that all children have the benefit of both parents' support. The state Franchise Tax Board should have the authority to collect all delinquent child support payments. In addition, the state should set up an administrative process to establish support orders, which would be easier, faster and less intimidating for parents than the current court-based process.

- In responding to the new federal welfare legislation, California should build upon the successes of its past welfare-to-work strategies. Transitional child care and health care assistance help parents to stay employed; families should be able to retain a portion of their initial earnings without comparable reductions in assistance; job search and training should be available to all those who qualify.

ALL CALIFORNIANS could make a difference by:

- Talking to elected representatives about your concerns for families in your area.
- Lending a hand in your own community by donating your time or resources to organizations that help families (child care centers, libraries, youth programs, health clinics, mentoring activities, etc.).
- Supporting co-workers as they try to balance work and family demands.

California's working families deserve better.

Acknowledgments

Children Now is deeply grateful to the many individuals and organizations who contributed information and technical expertise to the production of this document. A full list is found in the supplement to this report, California: The State of Our Children 1996.

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Report Card '96

Supplement

CALIFORNIA
The State of Our Children

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Report Card '96 Supplement

California: The State of Our Children 1996

kids count

We would like to express our special appreciation to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its support of our Kids Count project.

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INTRODUCTION

Every year, Children Now documents how California's children are faring in the areas of family economics, teen opportunity, safety, health and education. *Report Card '96* focuses particularly on the economic challenges that many families face in the new economy.

In California, thousands of children and youth whose parents work hard — sometimes putting in long hours and juggling double shifts — live in poverty, lack health insurance, and cannot afford the costs of pre-school or afterschool programs. Though parents work hard, they struggle every day to provide the basics for their children and to be good mothers and fathers.

Despite the struggle, many young people defy the odds: they achieve in school, contribute to their communities and provide great hope to others. But California's working families deserve better. *All* children should have the opportunity to thrive, learn and succeed. We *can* take steps to reward work and improve the well-being of families.

Many communities are taking action to support children and families. The box to the right highlights the actions of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and Children's Services Council, who have made children's well-being a county priority. The county statistics on pages 21-27 illustrate that every community has reasons to launch similar efforts.

Report Card '96 provides specific recommendations for the public and private sectors to increase support to families as they work hard to provide for their children. Helping California's children realize a more promising future depends upon a partnership of families, businesses and communities. As the federal government retreats from assisting the nation's children and families, California faces an even greater responsibility and opportunity to demonstrate how families and work are valued in this state.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY — ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHILDREN

Contra Costa County is making children's well-being a priority in their county planning. In response to Children Now's *California Report Card '95*, Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier introduced a Children's Accountability Act, and since April 1996, the county's Family and Human Services Committee has held a series of meetings to develop specific benchmarks to measure how children are faring in their county. The committee is exploring the development of a common set of goals for children and indicators to mark county progress toward those goals.

Around the nation, other states and communities have developed results-based accountability systems for children and families. Iowa is implementing "Budgeting for Results," tying the appropriation of resources to expected results. Minnesota's Milestones and Oregon's Benchmarks are state goals that embody a common vision for children and families. Oregon reports that these goals have influenced both public sector and private sector decisionmaking.

In confronting important decisions in the years ahead, California's business sector, nonprofits, state and local governments would benefit from an articulated vision of what California aims to realize for its children and families, and how we can plan together to make it a reality. Contra Costa's leadership can inspire other communities across the state to move ahead.

State Benchmarks Chart

	California Trend *	Comparison to U.S. Average*	Rank among States**
Family Economics			
Child Care	n/a	n/a	n/a
Homeless Children	n/a	n/a	n/a
Public Assistance	Better	Better	16/50
Hungry Children	n/a	Better	n/a
Child Support	Worse	Worse	47/54
Children in Poverty	Worse	Worse	40/51
			Bottom 28%
Teen Opportunity			
College Bound Students	Worse	n/a	n/a
Unemployed Youth	Worse	Worse	46/51
Teen Births	Better	Worse	43/50
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Incomplete	n/a	n/a
Incarcerated Juveniles	Better	Worse	50/50
			Bottom 8%
Safety			
Child Abuse/Neglect	Worse	Worse	38/51
Foster Care	Worse	n/a	n/a
Drug Exposed Babies	Incomplete	n/a	n/a
Youth Homicide	Better	Worse	n/a
			Bottom 25%
Health			
Infant Mortality	Better	Better	18/50
Prenatal Care	Better	Worse	41/50
Immunizations	Better	Worse	29/50
Uninsured Children	Same	Worse	41/51
Use of Nutrition Program	Better	n/a	n/a
Mental Health	Incomplete	n/a	n/a
Smoking	Better	n/a	n/a
			Bottom 34%
Education			
Dropout Rate	Better	Better	38/51
Preschool Education	Incomplete	n/a	n/a
Student/Teacher Ratio	Better	Worse	51/51
Per Pupil Expenditures	Better	Worse	42/51
Reading Skills for 4th grade	Worse	Worse	38/39
Math Skills for 8th Grade	Better	Worse	28/41
			Bottom 15%

* An "incomplete" indicates that the data to determine a trend is not available. An "n/a" indicates that the data for comparison to other states is not available. See page 20 under "Comments on Methodology" for an explanation of how the trend and national comparison are determined.

** For some indicators, data is not available for all 50 states. When the rank is out of 51, data for Washington D.C. has been included. When the rank is out of 54, Washington D.C. and U.S. territories have been included.

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Data Findings

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Family Economics — Sixty-three percent (63%) of poor families work during the year, but nonetheless remain in poverty. Downsizing, stagnant wages, part-time and temporary work leave many low- and middle-income families with greater financial difficulty than in the past.

- A new national study reveals that an estimated 37% of California children are at risk of hunger, based upon their low family income. Recent federal cuts to the food stamp program will decrease the average food assistance per household by $537 annually in 1998.

- Many children would enjoy greater financial security if child support was secured effectively from their absent parent. California ranks 47th out of the 54 states and territories in its child support enforcement record.

- The State Department of Education estimates that 1.6 million children are eligible for subsidized child care, yet only about 250,000 are currently served.

Teen Opportunity — About half of California's high school graduates enroll in college directly after high school. Most of the other 116,000 graduates look for work. Yet, good career opportunities are scarce.

- The income gap between those who graduate from college and those who do not has widened. In 1979, a high school graduate earned only 18% less than a college graduate. By 1988, the gap had grown to 43%.

- The federally-funded Summer Youth Employment program provides employment for less than 100,000 California youth. In 1994, an additional 182,000 16- to 19-year-olds were unemployed and actively looking for work.

- The number of youth incarcerated in California could fill about 569 classrooms. The state's cost for a young person's one-year stay at the California Youth Authority is greater than the cost for an entire high school education.

Safety — Children and families in difficult economic situations are more likely to experience child abuse and be victims of homicide.

- The number of child abuse reports in California continues the upward trend of the past decade. However, the rest of the country, on average, experienced an even greater increase last year than did California.

- The proportion of children living outside of their own home in California leveled off in 1996 after rising steadily for the past decade. California's foster care rate remains 59% above the national average.

- California's youth homicide rate remained 54% above the national average in 1994.

Health — Prenatal care and immunization rates continue to improve in California. However, one-fifth of California children lack health insurance and employer-based health coverage has been declining.

- In 1993, over 1.9 million California children (about 1 in 5) had no health insurance, either public or private. More than 80% of California's uninsured children live in working families.

- The proportion of California's children with employer-based health insurance has declined from 52% in 1989 to 48% in 1993.

Education — California's dropout rate continues to improve; however, children's achievement levels remain below students in other states.

- In 1994, California ranked 38th of 39 states in 8th grade math skills. The most recent scores for 4th grade reading (1992) show California as 28th out of 41 states administering the test.

- In 1994, California again had the most crowded classrooms in the nation. However, the Legislature recently allocated additional school funds specifically for class size reduction in the early grades. California may see some improvement in this measure in the near future.

- California is still significantly behind the average state in terms of per-pupil expenditures. In 1994-95, California spent $4,731 per pupil compared to the national average of $5,894.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Californians who work hard to make ends meet deserve a decent standard of living for their families. Our state's businesses, communities and the public sector can make this a reality.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR can provide jobs that pay a living wage, health insurance and flexible work schedules for their employees. Business leaders should support unemployment insurance reform to cover more workers.

STATE LEADERS have a number of opportunities to act on their commitment to working families:

- California should enact a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), as other states have done, by reallocating funds from current tax credits that are ineffective or of lower priority.

- California should expand health insurance coverage for children in working poor families as a smart investment in the future health of California.

- California should ensure, through adequate funding, that all parents who now qualify for subsidized child care are able to obtain affordable care.

- California should boost efforts to collect child support so that all children have the benefit of *both* parents' support. The state Franchise Tax Board should be charged with collecting all delinquent child support payments. In addition, the state should set up an administrative process to establish support orders, which would be easier, faster and less intimidating for parents than the current court-based process.

- In responding to the new federal welfare legislation, California should build upon the successes of its past welfare-to-work strategies. Transitional child care and health care assistance helps parents to stay employed; families should be able to retain a portion of their initial earnings without comparable reductions in assistance; job search and training should be available to all those who qualify.

ALL CALIFORNIANS could make a difference by:

- Talking to elected representatives about your concerns for families in your area.

- Lending a hand in your own community by donating your time or resources to organizations that help families (child care centers, libraries, youth programs, health clinics, mentoring activities, etc.).

- Supporting co-workers as they try to balance work and family demands.

A Guide to the Facts: State Benchmarks

STATE BENCHMARKS

Family Economics

1. Child Care

The number of children whose families need subsidized child care and the percentage actually being served in subsidized programs.

California Trend:

There is no annual count of the total number of children in California whose families need affordable child care and the actual number currently served.

* Of the more than 6 million children in California 14 years of age and younger in 1994, approximately 1.6 million of them were eligible for subsidized child care provided by the California Department of Education.

* Approximately 250,000 children are being served in subsidized programs provided by the California Department of Education and the California Department of Social Services.

* Average child care costs for a California family with one pre-school child range between $3,040 and $6,950 a year.

National Average: Not available.

* More than 50% of the nation's 131 million workers are parents with children school-aged or younger.

* 60% of all mothers with children under the age of 6 have jobs outside the home.

State Rank: Not available.

Sources: Child Development Programs Advisory Committee; Child Development Policy Institute; Regional Market Rate Ceilings for California Child Care Providers, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network; U.S. Department of Labor, Labor Force Information.

2. Homelessness/Housing

The number of children and youth under age 18 who live in shelters and on the street because they have no home.

California Trend:

No one agency or organization takes an annual count of homeless children in California or at the national level.

However, an annual 29-city survey conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that in 1995 families with children constituted 36.5% of all homeless people across the country. This study also notes that the requests for emergency shelter by homeless families with children increased by an average of 15% in the 29 survey cities between 1994 and 1995.

Finding affordable housing remains an ongoing struggle for California families. The 1996 fair market rent* (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in California is $777; a one-bedroom apartment rents for $620 a month. While California's FMR for a two-bedroom apartment is $777, the median FMR for a two-bedroom apartment in the United states is $543. Only six states have higher rents than California.

A family of three surviving on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) receives $594 a month in 1996, which is $183 less than the FMR on a two-bedroom apartment and $26 less than the FMR on a one-bedroom apartment.

Only 8.6% of all families on AFDC receive any housing assistance, a lower percentage than in any other state in the nation.

National Average: Not available.
State Rank: Not available.

*The fair market rent figures are estimates by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on the cost of a modest apartment plus the cost of utilities, except telephone.

Sources: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities: 1995, U.S. Conference of Mayors.

3. Public Assistance

The maximum monthly AFDC grant for a family of three with no other income compared to the fair market rent (FMR) for the state.

California Trend:

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
AFDC grant $$ (1992):	$624 ($624)	$607 ($591)	$607 ($583)	$594 ($560)
FMR % of income	*	$635 (105%)	*	$777 (131%)
# of children (in millions)	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.8

*Information not available

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) is the cash assistance program created in 1935 to help children and families in times of need. About two-thirds of current recipients are children. Federal legislation enacted in August 1996 eliminated this program and rescinded any federal entitlement to assistance for very poor children. Congress replaced AFDC with the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant and gave states broad authority to establish their own policies for providing basic assistance to children and families. The California Legislature and Governor are now charged with establishing critical state policies that will determine which poor children and families receive assistance and under which conditions. In future years, Children Now's *Report Card* will continue to track the number of poor children who receive assistance and the level of aid available to families in times of need.

National Average: In January 1996, the median state's maximum monthly grant for a family of three with no other income was $377 and the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment was $543 or 146% of the family's income.

State Rank: 16th of 50 states.

Sources: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 1996; Public Welfare in California March 1995, Statistical Series PA3-426; California Department of Social Services, Information Services Bureau.

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4. Hungry Children

The number of children who experience hunger.

California Trend:

At present no single government agency or other organization conducts annual surveys on the prevalence of hunger among families with children. In late 1996 or early 1997, however, that will change. The federal government will begin to provide annual reports on the numbers of Americans who are hungry, similar to the way it has reported on the federal poverty level for the past 20 years. These reports will measure the number of people who experience hunger as well as those who experience "food insecurity," a condition in which individuals and communities have inadequate or uncertain access to sufficient food supplies.

A 1995 national study conducted by the Food Research and Action Center estimates the number of children under age 12 who are hungry or food insecure by using poverty and population data:

	California	United States
Hungry children	11.8%	8%
Food insecure/ At risk of hunger	37.1%	29%

The 1995 U.S. Conference of Mayors study of hunger and homelessness in 29 cities shows that in the four California cities surveyed, an average of 51% of the requests for emergency food assistance were from families with children.

Within California, over 2.2 million children qualify for school lunch subsidies. This nutritional help is important but provides only 20% of the annual meals needed by children and generally excludes those under the age of five.

The average monthly food stamp benefit for a California family receiving AFDC was $184 in June 1996. The recent overhaul of federal welfare programs will make California's fight against hunger even harder. A major portion of the plan's $55 billion in savings over six years will come from the food stamp program, including eliminating benefits for legal immigrants. About 400,000 legal immigrant families with children live in California.

National Average: Not available.
State Rank: Not available.

Sources: Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project, Food Research and Action Center; California Food Policy Advocates; Tufts University Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy; A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities: 1995; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 1996; California State Department of Social Services.

5. Child Support

The percentage of cases in the state child support system for which child support is collected.

California Trend:

	1991	1992	1993	1994
Cases with support collections:*	19.5%	14.1%	12.5%	12.9%

* Each case generally represents one family, defined as mother, father and children. On average, each case involves 1.5 children.

The child support indicator is different this year from past Children Now reports. In the past, we examined collections in a given month as a percent of cases with orders established. The figures cited above reflect the collections as a percent of all cases, recognizing that even cases without orders in place represent children who are awaiting child support. In 1994-95, 43.7% (1,049,644) of all child support cases had orders for payment in place. An additional 1,350,033 cases were without support orders, and required paternity establishment, order establishment or location of noncustodial parents as preliminary step(s).

National Average: 18.3% of all child support cases received some support in 1994.

State Rank: 47th of 54 states and territories.

Source: Past Due: Child Support Collection in California, 1996, National Center for Youth Law, The Child Support Reform Initiative and Children Now.

6. Children in Poverty

The number and percentage of children under the age of 18 living below the poverty level.

The poverty threshold for a family of three with two children was $11,940 in 1994.

California Trend:

	1991	1992	1993	1994
Poverty Rate	25.3%	24.4%	28.6%	28.2%
Children in poverty (in millions)	2.2	2.1	2.7	2.5

National Average: 21.8% of all children under the age of 18 in 1994.

State Rank: 40th of 51 (50 states and the District of Columbia) in 1993.
The State Rank reflects a five-year average of poverty levels during March 1991 through March 1995.

Sources: California State Department of Finance, Census Data Center, Current Population Survey Reports; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Poverty and Wealth Branch; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance; State Rank from Kids Count Data Book, 1996, The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Teen Opportunity

7. College-Bound Seniors

The percentage of recent public and private high school graduates who go on to post secondary education in California public and independent colleges and universities.

California Trend:

1991	1992	1993	1994
60.1%	57.6%	57.2%	54.2%

252,984 students graduated from high school in 1994.

National Average: Not available.
State Rank: Not available.

- According to the California Postsecondary Education Commisssion about 4.6% of all California high school graduates enrolled in out-of-state institutions in 1994.

Source: California's Higher Education at a Glance, California Postsecondary Education Commission, 1996.

8. Unemployed Youth

The number and percentage of 16-19-year-olds who are unemployed and are actively looking for work.

California Trend:

	1991	1992	1993	1994
Percent	20.1%	25.1%	26.2%	22.8%
Number	153,000	187,000	193,000	182,000

National Average: 17.6% in 1994.
State Rank: 46th of 51.

Source: Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 1994- Bulletin 2469. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rank calculated by Children Now.

9. Teen Births

The number of births to females ages 15-19 per 1,000 females in that age group.

California Trend:

1990	1991	1992	1993
71	75	74	73

A total of 68,643 babies were born to California teenagers aged 15-19 in 1993. Even though the data show that the teen birth rate in California has declined slightly, California teenagers continue to have babies at a significantly higher rate than the national average. A recent study titled Kids Having Kids: Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy shows that children born to teenagers age 17 or younger are twice as likely to be abused or neglected, and 50% more likely to repeat a grade. Girls born to adolescent mothers are 83% more likely to become teenage moms themselves. Boys born to teen mothers are almost three times more likely to land in prison.

Though teen parenting tends to be cast as a girls' problem, evidence contradicts this widely-held perception. Teenage childbearing is usually denoted by the age of the mother, but in California and throughout the nation, many of the fathers of these babies are not teenagers. Kids Count Data Book, 1996 notes that nationally more that half of the fathers of children born to girls under age 18 were in their 20s. Children Now's 1995 County Data Book notes that in California, nearly two-thirds of the children born to teenage girls have adult fathers.

National Average: 60 in 1993.
State Rank: 43rd of 50.

Sources: Facts At a Glance, Child Trends, Inc., 1996; Kids Having Kids, Robin Hood Foundation, New York; Kids Count Data Book, 1996, The Annie E. Casey Foundation; Calculations by Children Now.

10. Drug and Alcohol Use

The percentage of 11th grade students who have used alcohol or illicit drugs in the past 30 days.*

California Trend:

	1993-94	1995-96
Alcohol	50.1%	47.7%
Any illicit drug	32.2%	30.8%

*This indicator is slightly different than the one used to measure teen drug and alcohol use in Children Now's past Report Cards, which specifically chronicled beer, marijuana and cocaine use among teens. The new indicator reflects 11th graders' use of these substances as well as other spirits, inhalants, LSD and other illegal drugs. Please note also that although the survey from which the current data are drawn — the Biennial California Student Substance Use Survey (CSS) — has been conducted for a decade, comparisons between current and earlier findings must be treated with caution. Because of changes in the sample due to new written parent consent requirements, the current results should be considered a new baseline from which to monitor use in the future.

Readers should also note that the trends indicated by the CSS have generally been consistent with those nationally in the Monitoring the Future Study, conducted by the University of Michigan for the National Institute on Drug Abuse. In 1995, both surveys found that teen marijuana use began rising in the early 1990s. Even with the change in the CSS parental consent procedures, the surveys are still consistent in reporting little difference in alcohol use in 1995 compared to 1993, but higher rates of marijuana use. The CSS survey also indicates that the number of teens who perceive frequent use of alcohol and illicit drugs as a problem has gone down.

National Average: Drug use by teenagers nationwide more than doubled between 1992 and 1995, with nearly 11% claiming to use drugs each month in 1995. According to the National

Household Survey on Drug Abuse, conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more than 2.4 million youths between the ages of 12 and 17 questioned in 1995 admitted using an illegal drug at least once during the previous month. The comparable figure in 1992 was about 1.1 million.

Though marijuana remains the most consumed illegal drug by far, according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, heroin is surging in popularity among teenagers. Marijuana use is up in most parts of the country, and users tend to be young, representing all ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Crack users appear to be an aging population with fewer young people entering the crack culture.

The Monitoring the Future Study notes that alcohol remains the most popular drug among teenagers across the country, with nearly 81% of those surveyed reporting that they had tried drinking alcohol at some point in their lives.

State Rank: Not available.

Sources: The Sixth Biennial California Student Substance Use Survey for Grades 7,9 and 11, 1995-96, Gregory Austin, Southwest Regional Laboratory; Pulse Check: National Trends in Drug Abuse, Spring 1996, Office of National Drug Control Policy; 1995 Monitoring the Future Study, University of Michigan Survey Research Center; National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

11. Incarcerated Juveniles

The number of juveniles placed in custody in public institutions — including California Youth Authority, county juvenile halls and camps — per 100,000 juveniles.

California Trend:

1987	1989	1991	1993
498	529	492	497

In 1993, 28% of all juveniles in custody in the United States were incarcerated in California; 17,061 California youth were in public institutions. However, juvenile arrest figures are slightly more encouraging now than they were in 1993. 1995 Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics indicate that in California and in the rest of the country the juvenile crime rate is declining. According to the U.S. Attorney General, in California, juvenile felony arrests in 1995 were down 7.5% from 1994. The nationwide arrest rate for murders by juveniles has dropped 15.2% since 1994, and 22.8% percent since 1993.

The U.S. Attorney General has indicated that mentoring programs, dispute resolution programs and truancy prevention programs have helped reduce the juvenile arrest rate. The number of juveniles in the United States will increase significantly over the next 15 years, however, creating an even greater urgency to use a mixture of law enforcement, intervention and prevention to keep juvenile crime rates low.

National Average: 213 in 1993.
State Rank: 50th of 50 in 1991. (State ranking not yet available for 1993.)

Sources: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs; U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Criminal Victimization in the United States 1993, Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Census Bureau, pers. comm. National rate calculated by Children Now.

Safety

12. Child Abuse and Neglect

The number of children and rate per 1,000 children who are reported for abuse — sexual, physical and emotional — and neglect .

California Trend:

	1992	1993	1994	1995
Number*	615,602	660,942	664,294	690,005
Rate per 1,000 children	74.0	77.7	74.5	75.1

National Average: 43 per 1,000 children in 1994. The national average is not directly comparable to California's rate. Some states, including California, count each alleged incident of maltreatment as one report, regardless of the number of children involved. Others use a child-based system that assigns a report to each child who is alleged to be a victim of maltreatment.

State Rank: 38th of 51.

* Note that some children may be reported multiple times within a year.

Sources: Preplacement Preventive Services for Children in California, 1994 and 1995; California Department of Social Services, Information Services Bureau; Child Maltreatment 1994: Reports from the States to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 1993 Series Population Projections, California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit; calculations by Children Now.

13. Foster Care

The number of children and rate per 1,000 children who are in out-of-home care (which includes children in foster care and children on probation who are not in institutionalized care, such as California Youth Authority).

California Trend:

	1993*	1994*	1995*	1996*
Number	85,031	90,107	94,509	96,446
Rate per 1,000 children	10.0	10.4	10.6	10.5

(January)*

National Average: The national average is not directly comparable to California's rate. The most recent data indicate that 468,000 youth were in out-of-home care in December 1994. However this number includes young people who are 18 and older, though they are less than 10% of the total number.

State Rank. Not available.

Sources: California Department of Social Service, Information Services Bureau, FCI520 Report; American Public Welfare Association, 1996; 1993 Series Population Projections, California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit; calculations by Children Now.

14. Drug Exposed Babies

The prevalence of drug or alcohol use among pregnant women and the percentage of infants born exposed.

California Trend:

No annual statewide statistics are available. A 1992 Perinatal Substance Exposure Survey conducted by the California Department of Alco-

hol and Drug Programs indicates that statewide, slightly more than one in every nine pregnant women giving birth tested positive for one or more drugs, including alcohol. About one in 11 pregnant women (8.8%) reported they were tobacco smokers at the time their babies were born. Women whose primary language was English were more than eight times as likely to test positive for illicit drugs than women whose primary language was not English. Approximately 30,000 women in 202 hospitals across the state were involved in the study.

National Average: National statistics are not collected on a regular basis. However, in July of 1996 the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) released the first ever national pregnancy and health survey, which chronicles drug use among women who delivered live births in 1992. Data were collected from a national sample of 2,613 women. The study indicates that of the approximately 4 million women who were estimated to have given birth in the United States in 1992, 5.5% of them used some illicit drug during pregnancy. Marijuana and cocaine were the two most frequently used illicit drugs. 18.8% used alcohol and 20.4% smoked cigarettes at some time during their pregnancy. The study noted a strong link between cigarette smoking, alcohol use and the use of illicit drugs by the survey respondents. In general, rates of illicit drugs were higher in women who were not married, had less than 16 years of formal education, and were not working.

State Rank: Not available.

Source: Statewide Perinatal Substance Exposure Study Fact Sheet, California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, 1992; National Pregnancy and Health Survey: Drug Use Among Women Delivering Live Births: 1992, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health.

15. Youth Homicide

The number of homicide victims under age 20 and the homicide rate per 100,000 young people under age 20.

California Trend:

	1992	1993	1994	1995
Number	781	857	824	832
Rate per 100,000	8.6	9.2	9.2	9.1

National Average: 5.9 homicides per 100,000 persons under age 20 in 1994 (4,436).
State Rank: Not available.

According to the Justice Department, young people between 12 and 15 are the victims of all types of crime more often than any other group. Teenagers of all ages are crime victims at twice the national average and at 10 times the rate of the elderly.

Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center; 1993 Series Population Projections, California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit; Crime in the United States 1994, U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Criminal Victimization in the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics; Resident Population of the United States: Estimates by Age and Sex, U.S. Census Bureau; calculations by Children Now.

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Health

16. Infant Mortality

The number of infants who die in their first year of life per 1,000 live births.

California Trend:

1991	1992	1993	1994
7.5	6.9	6.8	7.0

In 1994, there were 3,948 infant deaths.

National Average: 7.9 deaths per 1,000 births in California.
State Rank: 18th of 50.

Sources: California Department of Health Services, Office of Health Information and Research; Monthly Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 43, No. 13, 10/23/95 and Vol. 44, No. 7, 2/26/96, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics.

17. Prenatal Care

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The proportion of infants born to women who received no prenatal care during pregnancy, or only received care during the last trimester.

California Trend:

1991	1992	1993	1994
6.3%	5.3%	5.0%	4.9%

National Average: 4.4% in 1994.
State Rank: 41st of 50.

Sources: California Department of Health Services, Office of Health Information and Research; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 44, No. 11, 6/24/96, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics.

18. Immunizations

The percentage of two-year-olds appropriately immunized for their age.*

California Trend:

1993	1994	1995	1996
48.4%	57.2%	55.4%	57.3%

*Fully immunized two-year-olds have received three oral polio vaccines, four DTP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) vaccines and one MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine, known as the 4:3:1 series.

The California Department of Health Services determined the above immunization rates through the health records of children entering kindergarten. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently conducted a national immunization study through a telephone survey of parents of children aged 19-35 months. The CDC determined immunization rates for all states and the nation through this new method. The CDC's rate for California was 72%, significantly higher than the 57.3% obtained through the other method. Both methods are sound, yet neither are perfect. The true immunization rate is likely between these two figures.

National Average: 75% in 1994-95, according to the CDC survey.
State Rank: 29th of 50.

Sources: California Retrospective Survey Results 1995: State Immunization Levels and County Level Tables, California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch; Immunization Update, 8/8/96, California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch.

19. Uninsured Children

The percentage and number of children under age 18 who had no health insurance coverage, public or private, through an entire year.

Children who had even a single day of coverage during the year are not counted as uninsured. We suspect, therefore, that many more children are uninsured for some part, if not most, of the year.

California Trend:

	1990	1991	1992	1993
Percent	21%	20%	19%	21%
# of children (in millions)	1.72	1.71	1.64	1.92

National Average: 17% (or nearly 12 million uninsured children) in 1993.
State Rank: 41st of 51 in 1993.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey Report, March 1994; calculations by UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

20. Use of Nutrition Program

The average monthly number of nursing mothers, infants and children younger than 5 who receive WIC.

California Trend:

Fed. Fiscal Year	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Number Served	537,496	658,466	837,704	988,286

The California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offers supplemental nutritious food and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women. WIC also serves infants and young children who are at risk of receiving poor nutrition. A recent report by the U.S. Government Accounting Office reviewed 17 WIC cost effectiveness studies and concluded that for every dollar spent on WIC benefits for pregnant women, $2.89 is saved in health and other costs over the next 18 years.

The California WIC program is the nation's largest and is 100% federally funded. The increase in the number of women and children served is due solely to increased federal funds. WIC is not an entitlement program.

National Average: Using April as a typical snapshot month for Fiscal Year 1995, an estimated 6,858,414 women, infants and children across the country were served in the WIC program.

State Rank: Not available.

Sources: California State WIC Branch; U.S. Department of Agriculture Western Regional Office.

21. Mental Health

The percentage of children under age 18 who need mental health services and receive them.

California Trend:

According to several past studies, estimates of the number of children with diagnosable mental disorders range from 12% to 22% of the total child/adolescent population aged 5-17. A 1994 households survey by the California State Department of Mental Health estimated that 445,000-623,000 children, or approximately 5-7% of California children need special mental health services. In Fiscal Year 1993, approximately 75,000 children were served through the local county mental health programs.

National Average: Not available.
State Rank: Not available.

Sources: The California Household Mental Health Survey of 1992, California State Department of Mental Health; California State Department of Finance, State Census Data Center, Budget Letter #94-06; calculations by Children Now.

22. Smoking

The percentage of 9th grade students who smoke one or more cigarettes daily.

California Trend:

1989-90	1991-92	1993-94	1995-96
9.3%	6.3%	8.6%	8.4%

National Average: There is no direct comparison to the California figure. However, 9.3% of 8th graders surveyed in the annual "Monitoring the Future Study" conducted by the University of Michigan for the National Institute on Drug Abuse, indicated that they smoked cigarettes daily in 1995. Smoking among 8th graders jumped 30% between 1991 and 1994. Almost one in every five 13- and 14-year olds is an occasional or habitual smoker, but many youngsters don't see smoking as a threat to their health. 49% of the 8th graders queried in the "Monitoring the Future Study" replied that smoking a pack a day does not put one at "great risk of harm."

According to the Office of the Surgeon General, at least 3.1 million teens smoke and every day 3,000 more puff their first cigarette.

Not only do young people who themselves consume cigarettes face health risks, but those exposed to secondhand smoke do as well. Research from the Centers for Disease Control also indicates that children exposed to smoke in their homes have more colds, flu, bronchitis and pneumonia and miss more school days than other children.

State Rank: Not available.

Sources: The Sixth Biennial California Student Substance Use Survey for Grades 7, 9 and 11, 1995-96, Gregory Austin, Southwest Regional Laboratory; 1995 Monitoring the Future Study. University of Michigan Survey Research Center.

Education

23. Dropout Rate

The percentage of 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students who leave school and do not notify the school of a change of residence.

1) Annual dropout rate: reflects the actual loss in one year for all four grades. Figures for past years are recalculated using the four years of data and thus, are different from past Children Now reports.

California Trend:

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Annual dropout rate	5.2%	5.0%	4.9%	4.4%
4-year derived rate	20.0%	19.0%	18.7%	16.9%

The annual dropout rate indicates how many students left school in a single year by using dropout and enrollment counts from the same year. The 4-year derived rate offers an approximation of the percentage of students that drop out of school at some point during their high school careers.

National Average: In 1994, the annual dropout rate was 5.3%.

State Rank: Comparable data ranking the states by a one-year dropout rate is not available. However, in 1993, California ranked 38th of 51 in the percent of teens aged 16-19 who were high school dropouts.

Sources: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics; Kids Count Data Book, 1996, The Annie E. Casey Foundation; National Center for Education Statistics.

24. Preschool Education

The number and percentage of 3, 4, and 5-year-olds who receive early childhood education through programs such as Head Start.

California Trend:

No data is collected to measure the extent of need for early childhood education in California. The 1996-97 state budget provides funding for 53,000 children to be served in the Department of Education's Preschool Program, which offers a curriculum designed to prepare disadvantaged four-year-olds for an equal start in the public schools. In addition, approximately 72,650 children were enrolled in the federally-funded Head Start program. Head Start serves approximately 23% of the children eligible.*

National Average: Not available. In 1994, 61% of all 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children were enrolled in public and private pre-primary school programs. In 1995, 750,696 U.S. children (about 34% of those eligible)* were enrolled in a Head Start program.

*Head Start eligibility is determined by the number of children enrolled as a percent of the number of poor 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds.

Sources: Head Start Statistical Fact Sheet, May 1996, Head Start Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Digest of Education Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education-NCES 95-029.

25. Student/Teacher Ratio

The number of pupils in average daily attendance per teacher in California public elementary and secondary schools.

California Trend:

Fall 1991	Fall 1992	Fall 1993	Fall 1994
23.0	23.9	23.8	23.7

National Average: 15.9 pupils per teacher in avaerage daily attendance in 1994.
State Rank: 51st of 51.

Classrooms across the country are likely to be more crowded in years to come. More students will be enrolled in the nation's schools this fall than ever before, surpassing a peak reached 25 years ago, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The student enrollment record of 51.7 million students this fall will be surpassed each year for the next 10 years, resulting in a 15% increase by the year 2006.

California, which has the largest student population in the country, at 5.8 million, is expected to lead the increase. More than one million more students will pour into California classrooms over the next 10 years. Our schools will have to generate seats for an additional 525,000 high school students by 2006, and build 20,000 new classrooms.

In the short term, many California's classrooms will be less crowded. California's 1996-97 budget allocates more money for public education, with a majority of the funds going toward reducing class sizes for students in early grades. It's unclear, however, how the state will meet the challenge of an exploding school population over the next decade.

Sources: Rankings of the States 1995, National Education Association, Research Division; California Department of Finance; U.S. Department of Education; Coalition for Adequate School Housing of California.

26. Per Pupil Expenditures

The current expenditures for public elementary and secondary schools for each pupil in average daily attendance.

California Trend:

1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
$4,592	$4,620	$4,745	$4,731

National Average: $5,894 for each pupil in 1994-95.
State Rank: 42nd of 51.

Source: Rankings of the States 1995, National Education Association, Research Division; California Department of Education, Fiscal Policy Planning and Analysis Division.

27. Reading and Math Skills

The average proficiency in reading comprehension for 4th grade and math skills for 8th grade public school students, as determined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP.)

California Trend:

Reading:

1990	1992	1994
NA	203	198

National Average: 213 in 1994.
State Rank: 38th of 39.

The NAEP Reading Assessment rates students' reading proficiency on a scale of 0 to 500. Students in the 4th grade must score at least 208 points to achieve a NAEP rank of "Basic" reading ability.

Math:

1990	1992	1994
256	260	NA

National Average: 266 in 1992.
State Rank: 28th of 41 in 1992.

The NAEP Math Assessment rates students' math skills as follows:

(200) simple addition and problem solving;
(250) simple multiplication and 2-step problem solving;
(300) reasoning and problem solving for fractions, decimals, percents, elementary geometry and simple algebra.

Sources: Report Card on American Education 1995, American Legislative Exchange Council; Revised Edition NAEP 1994 Reading: A First Look, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

COMMENTS ON METHODOLOGY

Trend Analysis: In order to analyze the trend for each benchmark, the most recent 4 years of data are presented. A trend was considered to be improving if performance improved for the most recent 2 years. If the pattern was not consistent for 2 consecutive years, we included the performance for a third year in our analysis. If there was still no consecutive 2-year pattern, we compared the performance in the earliest year presented with the most recent year.

An "incomplete" indicates that the data to determine a trend is not available. An "n/a" indicates that the data for comparison to other states is not available.

Comparison to the National Average: The analysis of "better" or "worse" than the national average is based on whether California performed better or worse during the most recent year for which data are available.

The overall percentage for each category is calculated by averaging California's state rank for which data is available.

California County-by-County Charts

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CALIFORNIA CHILDREN, 1995

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN

	Total Children (0-17 yrs.)	As % of total population	Anglo	African-American	Latino	Asian/Other
Alameda	356,544	26%	139,625	72,748	74,906	69,265
Alpine	345	27%	182	0	29	134
Amador	6,762	19%	5,974	45	490	253
Butte	49,968	24%	37,316	817	7,747	4,088
Calaveras	10,611	26%	8,303	151	1,272	885
Colusa	6,267	33%	3,150	18	2,881	218
Contra Costa	230,102	26%	131,842	26,765	41,844	29,651
Del Norte	9,196	29%	5,128	254	1,948	1,866
El Dorado	41,338	27%	34,617	216	5,225	1,280
Fresno	258,154	32%	82,203	13,992	123,512	38,447
Glenn	8,962	32%	4,934	33	2,945	1,050
Humboldt	35,431	27%	26,114	909	4,717	3,691
Imperial	46,405	33%	7,318	788	37,282	1,017
Inyo	5,347	28%	3,932	17	673	725
Kern	214,659	33%	100,485	13,112	92,379	8,683
Kings	36,627	32%	16,126	2,338	16,264	1,899
Lake	14,840	25%	11,549	332	2,271	688
Lassen	7,319	22%	6,083	71	800	365
Los Angeles	2,641,138	28%	599,971	284,837	1,477,759	278,571
Madera	34,334	30%	14,819	784	17,996	735
Marin	54,259	22%	43,415	1,778	6,363	2,703
Mariposa	4,207	24%	3,461	44	370	332
Mendocino	24,370	27%	17,120	254	5,326	1,670
Merced	73,085	35%	28,395	3,028	30,978	10,684
Modoc	2,701	25%	2,156	42	342	161
Mono	2,652	25%	1,959	18	516	159
Monterey	117,626	31%	47,992	6,359	55,935	7,340
Napa	29,058	24%	19,623	417	7,957	1,081
Nevada	22,408	24%	20,077	69	1,759	503
Orange	695,414	26%	344,826	13,542	258,340	78,706
Placer	57,038	27%	47,584	464	6,913	2,077
Plumas	5,382	25%	4,508	58	513	303
Riverside	477,045	32%	205,953	27,284	213,268	30,540
Sacramento	323,638	27%	180,902	40,111	58,733	43,892
San Benito	13,342	31%	5,492	58	7,533	259
San Bernardino	581,224	34%	262,096	53,405	232,106	33,617
San Diego	720,296	26%	360,878	54,468	237,926	67,024
San Francisco	133,048	18%	39,715	21,611	25,942	45,780
San Joaquin	167,976	31%	73,490	9,674	52,768	32,044
San Luis Obispo	54,366	23%	39,725	1,229	11,779	1,633
San Mateo	160,555	23%	64,982	7,998	50,530	37,045
Santa Barbara	101,127	25%	48,143	2,922	45,425	4,637
Santa Clara	409,005	25%	183,349	16,361	124,449	84,846
Santa Cruz	60,651	25%	35,858	639	22,057	2,097
Shasta	48,362	28%	41,258	459	3,197	3,448
Sierra	817	25%	731	3	60	23
Siskiyou	11,841	26%	9,595	243	1,242	761
Solano	121,254	30%	60,039	17,553	24,616	19,046
Sonoma	111,498	26%	81,710	2,364	22,160	5,264
Stanislaus	140,952	32%	76,056	3,048	50,779	11,069
Sutter	22,855	30%	13,134	431	6,382	2,908
Tehama	16,127	28%	12,031	93	3,557	446
Trinity	3,516	25%	3,039	8	186	283
Tulare	125,634	34%	47,819	2,051	67,911	7,853
Tuolumne	13,170	23%	10,881	38	1,841	410
Ventura	202,948	28%	107,724	4,870	78,735	11,619
Yolo	43,816	27%	22,551	1,054	15,602	4,609
Yuba	24,050	35%	14,845	896	4,051	4,258
California	9,191,662	28%	3,822,783	713,171	3,651,067	1,004,641

1993 Series Population Projections, State Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

	Median Family Income		Monthly Rent		Child Care		Unemployment	
	FY 1996	Rank	Median	Rank	Cost	Rank	Percent	Rank
Alameda	$58,400	7	$804	10	$515	4	5.1	8
Alpine	$34,200	42	$498	44	NA	NR	19.3	57
Amador	$42,100	26	$596	29	$288	40	6.3	17
Butte	$32,800	47	$535	36	$297	36	9.8	37
Calaveras	$35,800	35	$548	34	$283	41	8.7	31
Colusa	$32,800	47	$463	50	$275	45	14.0	49
Contra Costa	$58,400	7	$804	10	$506	6	5.0	6
Del Norte	$33,500	44	$548	34	$250	49	9.4	35
El Dorado	$46,400	16	$626	22	$360	23	6.4	18
Fresno	$35,000	36	$516	40	$345	26	12.4	44
Glenn	$31,200	52	$463	50	NA	NR	16.0	56
Humboldt	$33,500	44	$551	33	$341	28	7.1	22
Imperial	$30,200	54	$511	42	$295	37	26.5	58
Inyo	$36,800	33	$527	38	$387	18	7.8	25
Kern	$36,900	32	$532	37	$300	34	12.5	45
Kings	$32,300	51	$494	45	$255	47	13.4	48
Lake	$29,800	55	$562	31	$360	24	10.8	40
Lassen	$37,500	31	$473	49	NA	NR	8.9	33
Los Angeles	$46,900	14	$855	8	$439	9	8.2	30
Madera	$35,000	36	$516	40	$278	43	14.2	50
Marin	$61,300	2	$991	1	$579	1	3.6	1
Mariposa	$35,000	36	$519	39	$280	42	6.4	18
Mendocino	$34,700	40	$601	28	$356	25	7.9	27
Merced	$33,500	44	$511	42	$295	38	15.7	54
Modoc	$34,400	41	$463	50	NA	NR	10.7	38
Mono	$39,600	29	$715	14	$410	11	14.7	51
Monterey	$43,000	25	$754	13	$401	14	8.1	28
Napa	$49,200	10	$707	15	$395	16	5.1	8
Nevada	$43,300	21	$670	19	$362	22	6.7	21
Orange	$61,300	2	$860	7	$430	10	4.3	4
Placer	$46,400	16	$626	22	$396	15	5.7	14
Plumas	$34,000	43	$463	50	NA	NR	8.7	31
Riverside	$43,300	21	$618	25	NA	NR	8.1	28
Sacramento	$46,400	16	$626	22	$395	17	6.2	15
San Benito	$45,000	20	$650	20	$410	12	13.0	46
San Bernardino	$43,300	21	$618	25	$321	32	7.8	25
San Diego	$46,600	15	$677	18	$383	19	5.4	12
San Francisco	$61,300	2	$991	1	$533	2	5.1	8
San Joaquin	$41,500	27	$602	27	$341	27	11.5	41
San Luis Obispo	$43,300	21	$690	17	$324	31	5.4	12
San Mateo	$61,300	2	$991	1	$513	5	3.6	1
Santa Barbara	$48,300	13	$824	9	$408	13	5.0	6
Santa Clara	$67,400	1	$949	4	$530	3	3.7	3
Santa Cruz	$53,100	9	$948	5	$478	7	6.2	15
Shasta	$34,800	39	$493	46	$329	30	9.5	36
Sierra	$36,200	34	$485	47	NA	NR	7.1	22
Siskiyou	$29,200	57	$463	50	$253	48	11.9	43
Solano	$49,200	10	$707	15	$374	21	7.7	24
Sonoma	$49,200	10	$795	12	$440	8	4.6	5
Stanislaus	$39,800	28	$555	32	$316	33	15.0	52
Sutter	$32,400	49	$463	50	$298	35	15.7	54
Tehama	$29,400	56	$463	50	$292	39	10.7	38
Trinity	$28,800	58	$463	50	NA	NR	11.6	42
Tulare	$31,200	52	$480	48	$275	44	15.1	53
Tuolumne	$39,100	30	$592	30	$334	29	9.3	34
Ventura	$59,100	6	$885	6	NA	NR	6.5	20
Yolo	$46,200	19	$630	21	$378	20	5.1	8
Yuba	$32,400	49	463	50	$269	46	13.1	47
California							7.2	

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TEEN OPPORTUNITIES

	Teen Births			College Bound Seniors - 1995		Juvenile Arrests - 1995		
	Number	Rate*	Rank	Percent	Rank	Number	Rate	Rank
Alameda	1,911	50	19	58.6	5	9,944	58.6	28
Alpine	1	NA	NR	n/a	NR	28	147.4	57
Amador	31	38	9	24.5	50	177	40.4	8
Butte	330	47	16	46.0	28	1,505	51.6	19
Calaveras	43	33	5	37.0	38	155	25.7	3
Colusa	52	75	NR	32.1	45	137	43.1	14
Contra Costa	1,070	39	10	54.2	10	6,219	50.9	18
Del Norte	62	68	NR	29.3	47	197	40.6	9
El Dorado	167	35	6	48.8	21	1,205	53.2	21
Fresno	2,654	95	42	53.1	12	13,990	107.2	55
Glenn	64	61	NR	41.4	32	358	76.4	46
Humboldt	205	46	15	45.5	30	1,342	69.3	39
Imperial	430	78	36	n/a	NR	1,604	68.7	37
Inyo	38	60	NR	33.5	44	222	84.9	49
Kern	2,189	95	42	35.5	41	4,313	40.7	10
Kings	392	100	45	45.6	29	2,782	153.9	58
Lake	122	71	32	34.1	42	512	63.0	30
Lassen	55	59	NR	29.3	47	341	74.7	42
Los Angeles	22,091	78	36	48.5	23	55,114	45.0	15
Madera	390	92	41	47.9	24	1,199	42.0	13
Marin	119	22	1	n/a	NR	1,882	75.9	45
Mariposa	22	44	NR	49.6	18	92	38.3	7
Mendocino	197	67	29	43.7	31	1,034	75.7	43
Merced	751	97	44	50.6	15	3,202	87.6	51
Modoc	21	55	NR	14.7	53	13	7.7	1
Mono	8	NR	NR	n/a	NR	32	23.8	2
Monterey	972	82	39	n/a	NR	3,757	67.4	35
Napa	142	41	12	35.9	40	412	26.5	4
Nevada	86	31	3	46.8	27	800	60.4	29
Orange	4,535	62	26	53.3	11	17,832	55.9	27
Placer	244	36	8	54.9	9	1,672	52.6	20
Plumas	25	35	NR	36.4	39	181	55.7	25
Riverside	3,424	73	33	24.4	51	6,720	29.5	5
Sacramento	2,432	68	31	55.9	7	8,097	49.8	17
San Benito	98	62	26	48.8	21	466	65.6	31
San Bernardino	4,534	27	2	37.3	37	14,736	84.9	49
San Diego	5,239	66	28	52.3	13	19,630	54.7	23
San Francisco	669	43	13	60.1	4	4,271	68.8	38
San Joaquin	1,457	78	38	49.2	19	5,784	66.0	32
San Luis Obispo	271	35	6	55.9	7	1,538	47.4	16
San Mateo	726	40	11	58.3	6	4,397	55.6	24
Santa Barbara	797	58	25	50.4	17	3,735	70.3	40
Santa Clara	2,375	54	23	61.2	1	14,676	75.7	43
Santa Cruz	410	54	22	61.2	1	2,559	81.1	48
Shasta	311	52	20	39.2	35	2,963	111.6	56
Sierra	2	NR	NR	21.8	52	52	97.2	53
Siskiyou	80	48	17	29.2	49	486	67.3	34
Solano	705	55	24	37.7	36	4,764	77.9	47
Sonoma	548	44	14	60.7	3	3,971	68.3	36
Stanislaus	1,117	73	33	46.9	26	7,002	98.4	54
Sutter	172	67	29	39.3	34	481	40.8	11
Tehama	145	74	35	41.4	32	480	53.3	22
Trinity	23	50	NR	31.3	46	68	32.4	6
Tulare	1,441	100	45	48.9	20	6,209	94.4	52
Tuolumne	53	32	4	47.1	25	316	40.9	12
Ventura	1,218	52	20	50.6	15	7,268	70.3	40
Yolo	318	48	17	52.2	14	1,672	67.1	33
Yuba	204	91	40	33.7	43	604	55.8	26
California	68,198			49.4				

*Births per 1,000 females ages 15-19.

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SAFETY, 1995

	Child Abuse Reports			Foster Care Placement			Youth Homicide
	Number	Rate*	Rank	Number	Rate	Rank*	Number
Alameda	19,176	53.8	7	3,785	10.6	42	22
Alpine	114	330.4	NR	9	26.1	NR	0
Amador	404	59.7	10	41	6.1	20	0
Butte	8,833	176.8	45	753	15.1	45	1
Calaveras	1,219	114.9	36	80	7.5	30	0
Colusa	468	74.7	20	25	4.0	8	0
Contra Costa	19,369	84.2	24	1,974	8.6	33	6
Del Norte	1,219	132.6	NR	105	11.4	NR	0
El Dorado	2,880	69.7	18	283	6.8	25	0
Fresno	22,399	86.8	27	2,663	10.3	41	13
Glenn	1,108	123.6	NR	89	9.9	NR	0
Humboldt	5,842	164.9	43	322	9.1	36	2
Imperial	2,575	55.5	8	245	5.3	15	3
Inyo	515	96.3	NR	30	5.6	NR	0
Kern	8,383	39.1	2	1,568	7.3	29	10
Kings	2,987	81.6	21	212	5.8	18	1
Lake	3,201	215.7	46	141	9.5	37	1
Lassen	1,383	189.0	NR	112	15.3	NR	0
Los Angeles	180,586	68.4	16	33,343	12.6	44	270
Madera	3,570	104.0	34	183	5.3	15	0
Marin	2,017	37.2	1	176	3.2	2	2
Mariposa	489	116.2	NR	40	9.5	NR	0
Mendocino	3,535	145.1	42	246	10.1	39	0
Merced	9,520	130.3	38	338	4.6	9	0
Modoc	522	193.3	NR	18	6.7	NR	0
Mono	220	83.0	NR	19	7.2	NR	0
Monterey	9,757	82.9	22	433	3.7	6	4
Napa	1,187	40.8	3	209	7.2	28	0
Nevada	1,996	89.1	30	103	4.6	9	0
Orange	34,541	49.7	6	2,517	3.6	5	28
Placer	3,399	59.6	9	290	5.1	14	1
Plumas	625	116.1	NR	44	8.2	NR	1
Riverside	28,756	60.3	12	2,863	6.0	19	17
Sacramento	27,384	84.6	25	3,075	9.5	37	20
San Benito	860	64.5	14	95	7.1	26	0
San Bernardino	48,273	83.1	23	3,892	6.7	24	39
San Diego	81,969	113.8	35	4,720	6.6	23	19
San Francisco	8,563	64.4	13	3,008	22.6	46	6
San Joaquin	14,644	87.2	28	1,450	8.6	33	12
San Luis Obispo	7,330	134.8	40	406	7.5	30	2
San Mateo	7,513	46.8	5	544	3.4	3	4
Santa Barbara	9,671	95.6	32	397	3.9	7	1
Santa Clara	24,634	60.2	11	2,233	5.5	17	12
Santa Cruz	5,950	98.1	33	385	6.3	22	1
Shasta	6,814	140.9	41	417	8.6	33	0
Sierra	110	134.6	NR	17	20.8	NR	0
Siskiyou	1,411	119.2	NR	227	19.2	NR	0
Solano	5,315	43.8	4	591	4.9	11	2
Sonoma	7,471	67.0	15	385	3.5	4	2
Stanislaus	10,293	73.0	19	706	5.0	13	4
Sutter	2,118	92.7	31	163	7.1	26	0
Tehama	1,969	122.1	37	179	11.1	43	0
Trinity	671	190.8	NR	39	11.1	NR	0
Tulare	10,659	84.8	26	1,066	8.5	32	5
Tuolumne	1,734	131.7	39	64	4.9	11	0
Ventura	13,913	68.6	17	601	3.0	1	8
Yolo	3,835	87.5	29	272	6.2	21	0
Yuba	4,106	170.7	44	243	10.1	39	0
California	690,005	75.1		78,434	8.5		519

* Abuse reports per 1,000 children.
* Children in foster care per 1,000 children.

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HEALTH, 1994

HEALTH

	Infant Mortality		Late or No Prenatal Care	
	Rate*	Rank	% Total Births	Rank
Alameda	7.2	19	2.7%	7
Alpine	NA	NR	0.0%	NR
Amador	9.0	35	2.2%	3
Butte	9.7	38	5.8%	25
Calaveras	9.2	NR	5.5%	NR
Colusa	8.4	NR	11.1%	NR
Contra Costa	6.8	13	3.6%	11
Del Norte	8.3	NR	8.2%	NR
El Dorado	6.9	16	2.3%	4
Fresno	7.1	18	4.3%	19
Glenn	7.9	NR	5.6%	NR
Humboldt	9.3	36	6.3%	29
Imperial	5.8	3	10.8%	42
Inyo	10.3	NR	10.7%	NR
Kern	6.7	12	8.5%	40
Kings	5.8	3	7.1%	36
Lake	14.2	44	7.6%	39
Lassen	5.5	NR	4.6%	NR
Los Angeles	6.8	13	3.9%	15
Madera	7.6	25	6.6%	30
Marin	7.7	27	2.6%	6
Mariposa	9.6	NR	8.7%	NR
Mendocino	9.8	39	14.8%	44
Merced	6.1	9	7.1%	36
Modoc	9.9	NR	5.7%	NR
Mono	2.7	NR	7.9%	NR
Monterey	6.0	8	7.0%	34
Napa	10.5	42	4.1%	18
Nevada	8.5	34	3.6%	11
Orange	5.8	3	3.9%	15
Placer	7.3	21	2.9%	9
Plumas	8.8	NR	2.8%	NR
Riverside	7.9	29	6.8%	31
Sacramento	7.3	21	5.6%	24
San Benito	5.7	2	1.6%	1
San Bernardino	6.4	10	6.9%	32
San Diego	6.8	13	6.9%	32
San Francisco	10.5	42	4.4%	23
San Joaquin	7.6	25	7.0%	34
San Luis Obispo	7.9	29	4.3%	19
San Mateo	7.0	17	3.0%	10
Santa Barbara	7.4	23	4.3%	19
Santa Clara	5.4	1	4.3%	19
Santa Cruz	7.1	18	3.7%	13
Shasta	9.4	37	4.0%	17
Sierra	8.2	NR	5.3%	NR
Siskiyou	10.4	NR	8.3%	NR
Solano	5.8	3	6.2%	28
Sonoma	8.1	33	2.8%	8
Stanislaus	7.4	23	3.8%	14
Sutter	7.9	29	8.6%	41
Tehama	10.1	41	6.1%	27
Trinity	10.1	NR	2.5%	NR
Tulare	7.2	19	5.8%	25
Tuolumne	9.8	39	2.1%	2
Ventura	5.8	3	2.4%	5
Yolo	6.6	11	7.4%	38
Yuba	8.0	32	11.0%	43
California			3.8%	

* Infant deaths per 1,000 births

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EDUCATION, 1995

	High School Dropouts		College Ready Seniors	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
Alameda	4.3	42	60.9	10
Alpine	NA	NA	NA	NA
Amador	1.4	3	47	46
Butte	4.9	49	53.8	22
Calaveras	2.5	17	48.7	42
Colusa	2.0	8	44.6	51
Contra Costa	2.5	17	58.9	13
Del Norte	5.1	51	58.9	13
El Dorado	2.3	13	62	7
Fresno	5.2	53	51.9	30
Glenn	4.6	47	45	50
Humboldt	5.1	51	51.9	30
Imperial	3.0	23	54.8	20
Inyo	2.2	12	63.2	4
Kern	4.5	45	44.2	54
Kings	2.4	15	47	46
Lake	3.7	31	49.4	38
Lassen	2.1	10	48.4	44
Los Angeles	6.5	56	49.2	40
Madera	6.0	55	52.3	28
Marin	1.6	4	64.7	3
Mariposa	3.7	31	52.3	28
Mendocino	4.4	43	53.4	23
Merced	3.6	30	44.5	52
Modoc	NA	NA	44.4	53
Mono	5.6	54	69.8	1
Monterey	4.0	36	49.4	38
Napa	1.0	1	55.8	17
Nevada	3.3	27	54.9	18
Orange	2.7	21	51.5	34
Placer	2.5	17	56.7	15
Plumas	2.0	8	62.4	5
Riverside	3.3	27	53.3	24
Sacramento	4.7	48	54.6	21
San Benito	1.6	4	61.8	8
San Bernardino	3.9	35	52.7	25
San Diego	4.0	36	59.8	12
San Francisco	5.0	50	50.8	36
San Joaquin	3.2	24	48.9	41
San Luis Obispo	2.1	10	50.8	36
San Mateo	2.5	17	61.8	8
Santa Barbara	3.2	24	51	35
Santa Clara	3.2	24	62.4	5
Santa Cruz	3.8	34	54.9	18
Shasta	4.5	45	52.7	25
Sierra	2.3	13	41.3	57
Siskiyou	4.4	44	47.4	45
Solano	2.4	15	51.8	32
Sonoma	2.8	22	56.1	16
Stanislaus	4.0	36	45.1	49
Sutter	4.1	40	51.8	32
Tehama	1.7	7	42.6	56
Trinity	1.2	2	68.6	2
Tulare	4.0	36	46.9	48
Tuolumne	1.6	4	48.7	42
Ventura	3.5	29	52.4	27
Yolo	3.7	31	60	11
Yuba	4.1	41	43.5	55
California	4.4		52.8	

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